

Unemployment digest



Summary

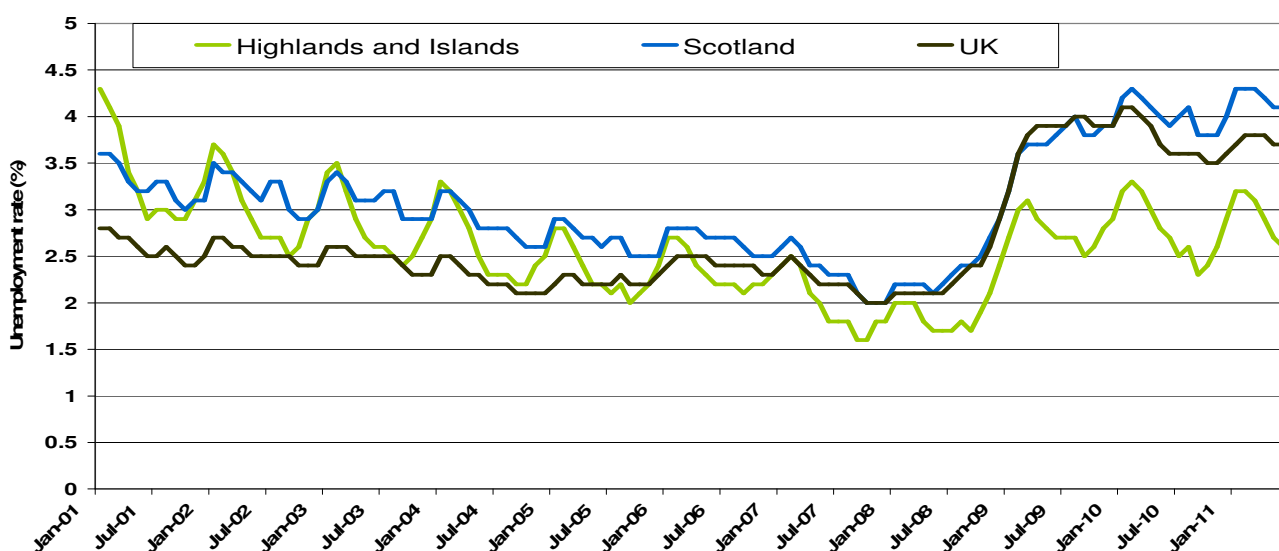
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at a more local level than the ILO unemployment rate statistics provided by ONS. Claimant Count statistics are available monthly at Area Office and Travel to Work area level. This means we are able to identify, interpret and respond to changes in very local labour markets.

The June 2011 unemployment figures were released on 13th July 2011. Over the month, May 2011 to June 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom fell by 0.8% from 1,504,913 to 1,493,077 (11,836 claimants). This figure is 3.4% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,444,096, an increase of 48,981 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose over the month, rising by 0.3% from 140,107 to 140,557 claimants (450 claimants). This figure is 5.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 133,453, an increase of 7,104 claimants.

The unemployment rate for the Highlands and Islands fell over the month, falling 1.9% (141 claimants) from 7,512 to 7,371 claimants. This figure is 3.4% (242 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 7,129.

Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2011



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Note: Working age is defined as 16-64 for both men and women

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the Claimant Count rates for June 2011, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with May 2011 and June 2010 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the June 2011 figure.

Area	June 2011	May 2011	June 2010
Dunoon & Bute	4.9	4.8	4.3
Wick	4.7	4.6	4.6
Campbeltown	4.1	4.0	3.5
Invergordon	4.0	4.1	4.3
Thurso	3.6	3.4	3.1
Eilean Siar	2.8	3.0	2.8
Moray	2.6	2.7	2.5
Inverness & Dingwall	2.6	2.5	2.5
Dornoch & Lairg	2.5	2.5	3.1
Lochgilphead	2.3	2.3	1.9
Oban	2.2	2.3	2.1
Skye & Lochalsh	2.0	2.2	1.9
Lochaber	2.0	2.2	1.6
Mull & Islay	1.5	1.7	1.3
Orkney Islands	1.4	1.5	1.2
Shetland Islands	1.4	1.5	1.5
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.3	1.5	1.5
Badenoch	1.2	1.3	1.6
HIE TTWAs	2.6	2.7	2.5
Highland	2.7	2.7	2.7
Scotland	4.1	4.1	3.9
United Kingdom	3.7	3.7	3.6

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to June 2011, the claimant count rose in 5, fell in 11 and was static in the remaining 2 TTWA's – Dornoch & Lairg and Lochgilphead. Thurso had the greatest increase over the month rising 0.2% from 3.4% to 3.6%. Eilean Siar, Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Mull & Islay and Ullapool & Gairloch all shared the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.2%.

Over the year to June 2011, the claimant count rose in 12, fell in 5 and was static in the remaining TTWA – Eilean Siar. Dunoon & Bute and Campbeltown shared the greatest increase over the year, both rising 0.6% from 4.3% to 4.9% and 3.5% to 4.1% respectively. Dornoch & Lairg had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.6% from 3.1% to 2.5%.

Table 2 – Number of unemployed by Area Office

Table 2 below traces changes in the numbers (not rates) of unemployed people claiming benefits in the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Area Offices (AOs) between May 2011 and June 2011. A yearly comparison between June 2010 and June 2011 is also provided. The AOs are ranked in descending order by the size of the annual change in the number of unemployed, displayed in the right hand column.

Area Office	Number claiming unemployment benefit (June 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (May 11 - Jun 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Jun 10 - Jun 11)
Shetland	191	-11.6	-7.3
Inner Moray Firth	2,437	-0.3	-2.4
Innse Gall	458	-7.3	-0.2
Caithness and Sutherland	841	1.4	1.4
Moray	1,446	-2.7	4.0
Argyll and the Islands	1,362	0.1	13.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	453	-8.1	13.8
Orkney	183	-3.2	24.5
HIE Area	7,371	-1.9	3.4
Highland	3,731	-1.0	0.2
Scotland	140,557	0.3	5.3
United Kingdom	1,493,077	-0.8	3.4

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month May to June 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 2 and fell in the remaining 6 area offices. Caithness & Sutherland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 1.4% from 829 to 841 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 11.6% from 216 to 191 claimants.

Over the year to June 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 5, and fell in the remaining 3 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 24.5% from 147 to 183 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling by 7.3% from 206 to 191 claimants.

Table 3 – Long-term unemployment by Area Office

For the purpose of this analysis, long-term unemployment (LTU) is defined as 'all those who have been unemployed and claiming benefit for over 6 months'. Table 3 below shows the number of people who are long-term unemployed in June 2011 in each of the AOs. It also highlights the percentage change in the number of those claiming long-term unemployment benefit over the month (May 2011 to June 2011) and over the year (June 2010 to June 2011). The AOs are ranked by the right hand column, which contains the size of the annual percentage change in numbers of LTU.

Area Office	June 2011	% Change in number of LTU (May 11 - Jun 11)	% Change in number of LTU (Jun 10 - Jun 11)
Shetland	40	-27.3	-27.3
Orkney	40	-11.1	-11.1
Inner Moray Firth	675	2.3	0.0
Innse Gall	200	-4.8	0.0
Caithness and Sutherland	325	0.0	6.6
Moray	450	5.9	9.8
Argyll and the Islands	545	-1.8	12.4
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	160	-8.6	33.3
HIE Area	2,435	-0.6	6.1
Highland	1,160	0.0	5.5
Scotland	50,805	1.2	2.1
United Kingdom	528,595	1.6	-8.4

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month May to June 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 2, fell in 5 and was static in the remaining area office– Caithness and Sutherland. Moray had the greatest increase over the month, rising 5.9% from 425 to 450 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 27.3% from 55 to 40 claimants.

Over the year to June 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 4, fell in 2 and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Inner Moray Firth and Innse Gall. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 33.3% from 120 to 160 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 27.3% from 55 to 40 claimants.

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Further economic information and previous factsheets can be accessed on the HIE Website: <http://www.hie.co.uk>

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